

Clue 1 – Apostrophes

Freddy and June walked past a dog chasing its tail outside Jack's house. They paused outside the greengrocer, where plums, apples, oranges and pears were on sale. The tangerines (10 for £1) particularly caught their eye.

"It is cold," commented Freddy as they entered Laurel's Launderette. A dim light bulb shone its weak glow round the room. He emptied the first bag. Jill's trousers, Reece's pants and Oliver's shirt fell out on the floor. From his second bag, Bernard's jacket, Otto's socks, Olive's skirt and Charles's vests tumbled out.

"I cannot believe the smell of Bert's smalls. We have got a job on our hands here."

"Good job we brought some of Viv's special washing powder and Eve's softener; I am so pleased we remembered them."

"Do you remember Denis's jumpers? They were really gross"

"You are right there. They were nearly as bad as Sam's pyjamas.

June gazed across the street. Situated between the shop selling boys' toys and a lamp post, which looked like an emu's head, were the men's toilets.

"What a pig's ear they have made of the High Street," she thought.

Killer does not have a Samsung

Clue 2 – Commas

Ruth made a mental note of what she needed: trout, kippers, ice, lentils, leeks, eggs and tofu. Her son John, red from lying in the sun, started to discuss his upcoming birthday.

“What I really want is a new pet,” proclaimed the 10 year old.

“Pets aren’t just for birthdays – they’re for life,” explained his mother.

“You never buy me what I really want. Callum’s Mum is letting him choose from a list: crocodile, tarantula, iguana, snake, Alsatian or scorpion,” moaned John.

His mother, alarmed at the thought of a dangerous pet, moved swiftly to dampen his enthusiasm.

“Callum’s mother may be buying him one of those animals; nevertheless, my home is going to stay safe and clean!”

“That’s not fair,” argued John, leaping up from the sofa.

Killer’s pet is a mammal

Clue 3 - Past tense

I bought some new plastic shoes and caught the bus home. I wore them to school. Because of the danger of scorpions, I shook my shoes. My brother did it differently - he knelt down and then told me they were clear. I preferred my way. He did this before the sun rose above the trees and broke through the clouds.

He sat down to breakfast before he went out. Outside the house, he found his bicycle and met his friends. He was on time as usual. At break he drank his coconut milk and bit into his fresh mango snack.

In class an enormous rat shot out from under the table. Mr Maserotoo found some droppings under the bench and sent for a brush. Later the rat crept up to the river bank and swam across to the other side.

A warm wind blew as we children slept. My father ate his supper before he too slid into bed.

The killer does not wait on tables

Clue 4 - Homophones

The bowls, with remnants of the desert (dessert) from last knight's (night's) meal, had been left their (there) by the guests. Freda poured some cereal (Cereal) - found in the hire (higher) of the two cupboards – and looked out of the window. A tall fir (fir) tree cast a shadow over the beds of mint, rosemary and time (thyme). The postman sauntered up to deliver the mail (mail) as a large lorry turned left onto the main (main) road. Piece (Peace) was restored as the lorry departed and the pail (pale) sunlight revealed a squirrel's twitching tail (tail) on the bird-table.

Carrying the kitchen waste (waste) up the garden, she saw a queue (queue) forming down the road. It was plain (plain) to see that the driver of a Fiat had not read (read) the One Way sign. She watched the scene (scene) with interest as a large motorbike arrived with a roar (roar), the driver impatient with the weight (weight). He fought (fought) his way through, the muscles (muscles) on his arms bulging, as rain (rain) began to fall. Ate (Eight) minutes later the police arrived and find (fined) the Fiat driver.

"I know I'm not allowed (allowed) that way but you shouldn't profit (profit) from my mistake," complained the driver.

Hearing a message on the radio, the policewoman replied, "We have to chute (shoot) off now, I hope this has taught (taught) you a lesson."

Freda went indoors and climbed the stairs (stairs). The storey (story) was fresh in her mind as she began to write (write) her diary. The rays (rays) of the evening sun lit the room.

The criminal is under the age of thirty.

Clue 5 identifying nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs

The tiger crept slowly towards the sleeping hyena. A nearby elephant was being washed by a keeper. An iguana, an interesting lizard, lay camouflaged amongst the leaves. Eric and Rachel, full of hope, began their ascent to the summit. (nouns)

It was a beautiful day and the evergreen rainforest teemed with life. The energetic walkers soon passed the nearby monument. There was a tense moment as an orange snake leapt towards Rachel but she dodged it easily. (adjectives)

A wild boar ferreted among the dead leaves and opened a seed capsule.

"I understand," remarked Eric, "Those seedpods smell so strongly, animals turn up from miles around."

"I agree with you," grunted Rachel. (verbs)

The two climbers became painfully aware of large number of mosquitoes who were avidly homing in on them. They reluctantly decided to stop for the night. Tiredly, they erected their tent and dragged their bodies inside. Lying under their mosquito nets, they listened interestingly to the loud calls of the nearby bull frogs as they enticingly tried to attract mates.

Suddenly they were disturbed by a loud crash behind them....

(adverbs)

The killer has been to four stag parties.